

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BAGHDA 01046 010414Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 SSC-01 /070 W
-----018018 010458Z /17

R 291049Z JUN 77
FM USINT BAGHDAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4715
INFO US MISSION USUN NEW YORK 113

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAGHDAD 1046

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT PINR IZ
SUBJECT: IRAQI GOVERNMENT CHANGES

REF: BAGHDAD 862

1. IRAQI PRESS OF JUNE 24 REPORTS REVOLUTIONARY COMMAND COUNCIL DECISIONS WHICH CONSTITUTE IMPORTANT INTERNAL SHAKE UP, ALTHOUGH NO CABINET POSITIONS ARE CHANGED. RCC MEMBER IZZAT IBRAHIM ADDS THE POST OF CHAIRMAN OF THE HIGHER AGRICULTURAL COUNCIL OF THE RCC TO HIS ALREADY IMPRESSIVE ARRAY OF JOBS. BAATH PARTY REGIONAL COMMAND MEMBER MUHY ABDUL HUSSEIN IS NAMED AS SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE RCC, AN IMPORTANT STAFF POSITION. HISHAM IBRAHIM AL-SHAWI, WHO WAS RECENTLY NAMED AS AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED NATIONS BUT WHO NEVER TOOK UP THAT POST, HAS BECOME HEAD OF THE PRESIDENTIAL DIWAN, A POSITION WHICH HAS LESS IMPORTANCE THAN IT DID WHEN PRESIDENT BAKR WAS PLAYING A MORE ACTIVE ROLE. RCC RESOLUTIONS ALSO EFFECTED SOME 15 OTHER PERSONNEL CHANGES, INCLUDING NEW APPOINTMENTS AND TRANSFERS OF UNDER SECRETARIES, PROVINCIAL GOVERNORS, HEADS OF ESTABLISHMENTS, AND DIRECTORS GENERAL.

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PAGE 02 BAGHDA 01046 010414Z

2. COMMENT: OUR ANALYSIS OF CHANGES SUGGESTS THAT IRAQI STRONGMAN SADDAM HUSSEIN AND IZZAT IBRAHIM ARE WORKING CLOSELY TO STRENGTHEN EACH OTHER'S POSITION AS A PRELUDE TO THE POWER STRUGGLE WHICH WILL OCCUR AT SOME TIME IF BAKR DIES OR OTHERWISE RELINQUISHES CONTROL. ALMOST ALL OF THESE CHANGES INVOLVE ADVANCEMENT OF MEN WHO ARE PROTEGES OF EITHER HUSSEIN OR IBRAHIM. IT

IS ALSO NOTEWORTHY THAT, ON THE RELATIVELY FEW
OCCASIONS HUSSEIN HAS APPEARED IN PUBLIC SINCE HIS
ILLNESS, HE HAS ALMOST WITHOUT EXCEPTION BEEN IN THE
COMPANY OF IBRAHIM. THE BEST BET FOR THE TARGET OF
THIS APPARENT COORDINATION BETWEEN THE TWO MEN IS RCC
MEMBER TAHA YASIN AL-JAZRAWI, WHOSE STAR SEEMS TO BE
IN DESCENT.
MACK

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENTS, POLITICAL SITUATION, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT, REORGANIZATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 29-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BAGHDA01046
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770234-1126
Format: TEL
From: BAGHDAD
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977069/aaaaahjr.tel
Line Count: 70
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: fd9eb784-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 BAGHDAD 862
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2273780
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: IRAQI GOVERNMENT CHANGES
TAGS: PINT, PINR, PGOV, IZ
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/fd9eb784-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009